HEADS OF A BILL,

Now under Conſideration, to prevent

Unjuſtifiable Marriages;

With ſuitable Penalties to be inflicted on thoſe who ſhall be found Delinquents.

I. WHEN two young thoughtleſs fools, having no viſible means to maintain themſelves, or begin life with, yet reſolve to MARRY, and be unhappy, it is to be deemed *Petty Larceny*.

If a younger brother MARRIES an old woman, for the ſake of a maintenance only, it will be named *ſe defendendo*.

When a rich old fellow MARRIES a young woman in full bloom, it is to be made *Felony without benefit of Clergy*.

When two old beings, that can hardly hear one another ſpeak, but haulk and cough night and day, and can propoſe not the leaſt enjoyment to themſelves, yet will MARRY, to be miſerable, they will be deemed *non compos*, and ſent to a mad-houſe.

When a Lady MARRIES her Coachman, or a Gentleman his Maid, (eſpecially if there be children by a *former marriage*) they are to be *tranſported* for 14 years.

When a man has a devil of a wife, and buried her, yet MARRIES a ſecond, it will be brought in *Felo de ſe*, and he buried in the highway accordingly.

When a woman in good circumſtances MARRIES a Town Rake, not worth a groat; if ſhe is betrayed into it, it will be called *Accidental Death*; but, if ſhe knew it, it will be made ſimple *Felony*.

If a man WEDS a woman of ill fame, knowing her to be ſuch, he will be condemned to have a *pair of horns* painted on his door, *in perpetuam rei memoriam*; and, if ſhe be a known ſcold, then a couple of *neat's tongues* painted there.

When a man or woman WEDS to the diſinheriting their children, they will ſuffer as in caſes of *High Treaſon*.

When a woman MARRIES a man deeply in debt, knowing him to be ſo, ſhe will be ſent to the *Houſe of Correction*, and put to hard labour for ſix months; but, if he deceived her, and did not let her know his circumſtances, ſhe will be acquitted, and he will be doomed to beat hemp all the days of his life.

When a man with no children MARRIES a woman with five or ſix, and *vice verſa*, the delinquent is to ſtand in the *Pillory*, loſe both his ears, and ſuffer one years impriſonment.

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